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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #05004-84
30 August 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

Representatives of the Intelligence Community met on 22 August 1984 to consider the attached subjects.

Next month's Warning and Forecast Meeting will be held on 19 September 1984 at 1400 hours in room 7E62, CIA Headquarters. Please phone your attendance intentions to [redacted] by noon on 18 September 1984, and have your clearances verified to us by your security office.

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[redacted]
David D. Gries
National Intelligence Officer
for East Asia

Attachment:
Warning and Forecast Report

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22 August 1984 East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

The A/NIO/EA began the meeting by providing a brief overview of areas of current activity in Asia: the New Zealand election, the implications of Labor victory for antinuclear sentiment in the Pacific and the possible weakening of ANZUS; the North-South Korea dialogue and the impact of recent North Korean troop movements towards the DMZ; and failure of the recent demonstrations in the Philippines to develop as fully as the opposition had hoped. In all three cases, the A/NIO pointed out, US policy makers are working to develop responses. The Intelligence Community will be providing support to these efforts in the weeks ahead.

I. Sino-Vietnamese Border Situation --

the Chinese appear to be using this opportunity to give combat experience to additional units.

Prediction: We expect Chinese occupancy of these hilltops in North Vietnam to continue, and the current level of combat activity to continue throughout the winter.

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III. New Zealand and ANZUS -- Newly elected New Zealand Prime Minister Lange faces serious economic problems in the near term. These, coupled with policy pressures from his party stalwarts, provide him little if any room to maneuver on the issue of the Nuclear Free Zone and nuclear ship visits to New Zealand. His public statements, with which he is painting himself into a corner on this issue, reflect his dilemma.

[redacted] There does not appear to be any connection between Lange's position on nuclear ship visits and other nuclear questions such as dumping. In other words, US concessions on dumping or other proliferation questions are unlikely to cause Lange to alter his position. We doubt that Lange or the Labor Party desires that New Zealand pull out of ANZUS, and so long as Lange can keep the issue on the back burner and focus efforts on the economic question, ANZUS can probably continue to function, albeit without the presence of US nuclear powered or armed vessels visiting New Zealand.

Prediction: We expect to see Lange's intransigent position continue and if anything harden over the coming months. He will, if possible, sidestep the ship visit question as long as possible, while looking for maneuver room which at this time appears nonexistent.

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[Redacted]

IV. The Philippines:

The Recent Demonstrations -- A smaller than expected turnout for the Aquino assassination demonstrations in Manila caused the gathering to take on the characteristics of a non-event. Nevertheless, it was a good showing and probably a precursor for numerous other demonstrations that will take place between now and the anniversary of the imposition of martial law on 21 September. The Supreme Court ruling granting permission for the demonstration, after the Marcos government had denied a permit, contributed to the peacefulness of the rallies.

Prediction: The demonstrations will have little effect on how Marcos operates in the months ahead. He already has had the new legislature change laws making it more difficult for the opposition to impeach him. The fact that the opposition is operating within the parliamentary context actually gives Marcos some leverage in that it provides an impression of an open society operating through democratic institutions. Of more concern is the outlook for Marcos's health.

Marcos' Health -- [Redacted]

[Redacted] He can ill afford to lose the appearance of being in charge during this critical time.

Aquino Assassination -- [Redacted]

[Redacted] The question now is whether the Agrava Board will announce its findings indicating that the security sergeant identified in the report was indeed the assassin and that he was probably operating under orders from higher-ups.

Prediction: We are unable to predict at this time how the Agrava Board will act on this information and whether or not they will recommend indictments and investigations of more senior officials in connection with the assassination.

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